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LETTER DATED 22 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward to you herewith the text of a statement issued on 22 May 1995 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the statement as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia on the gas pipeline explosions of 21 May 1995

At 2240 hours on 21 May 1995, two explosions destroyed the natural gas pipeline feeding Armenia and traversing the Azeri-populated Marneuli district of the Georgian territory. The simultaneous acts - one on the River Kur, the other on the River Khram - stopped the flow of natural gas to Armenia for the fourth time this year.

This constitutes the sixteenth such explosion since May 1992. During that period, there have also been 34 acts of sabotage affecting the railway operations into Armenia, including seven explosions of the rail bridge on the Khram River connecting Armenia with Georgia. As a result of these acts of sabotage, the Republic has been deprived of its only source of natural gas for close to 200 days and the economy of the country has suffered incalculable damage.

The Government of Armenia has stated clearly that the normal functioning of communications through Georgia constitutes a matter of national security for Armenia. Armenia has issued a number of warnings with regard to the consequences of continued acts of international terrorism, which, on the basis of evidence at its disposal, it is confident are being committed by agents of the Azerbaijani Government. The Government of Armenia has warned the international community of the impact such acts could have on the negotiating process. It has invited the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to send a commission to the region on a fact-finding mission. The Government of Armenia has also expected that Azerbaijan and OSCE will provide guarantees that such acts will not continue to occur.

Despite the danger that such acts present to the cease-fire and negotiating process, and the warnings which have been issued, including President Ter-Petrossian's statement at the Budapest Summit on 5 December 1994, no steps have been taken to correct the situation. The Azerbaijani Government continues to hide behind the OSCE Minsk Group negotiations while continuing to commit acts of international terrorism. These, Armenia considers acts of war, contrary to the letter and spirit of the cease-fire agreement, and to all the unilateral goodwill actions taken by Armenia to create a favourable atmosphere for negotiations to achieve a peaceful settlement to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.

The Government of Armenia declares, therefore, that it is suspending its participation in the OSCE Minsk Group negotiations with the expectation that OSCE and the international community will provide adequate guarantees that Azerbaijan will put an end to these grave violations of the cease-fire and acts of international terrorism. The Government of Armenia will reconsider its decision when such guarantees are provided.